

**Members Present:** President Joe Krapohl, , Commissioners: Mike Keeler, Joe Madore, Bryant Nolden, Gloria Nealy, Mike Lynch, Cloyce Dickerson

**Members Absent:** V.P. Jim Washington, Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioner Jeff Wright

**Staff Present:** Amy McMillan, Director; Barry June, Deputy Director, Danielle Fulcher, Marketing Specialist; Nancy Edwards, Program Specialist/Grants, Deborah Wilkes, Administrative Secretary; Patrick Linihan, Administrative Intern

**Others Present:** Tom Kehoe

**1) Call to Order.** President Krapohl presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2) Opportunity for members of the public to address the commission.**

Tom Kehoe asked about the following items: Oil spill area, project at Cummings Center, train trestle project, Lions Club flower beds, railroad crossing, Stepping Stone Falls steps and a dead tree, beach pavilion, 3-minute rule for public comment, director's position. He supplied pictures.

**3) Consent Agenda.** President Krapohl asked commissioners if there are any items they wish to remove from the consent agenda for discussion. No items were removed from the consent agenda.

**Action Taken:**

Motion by Commissioner Nolden  
Supported by Commissioner Dickerson

**Motion and support for approval of consent agenda items A through D, as listed.**

**Roll Call**


**Yeas:** Krapohl, Keeler, Dickerson, Lynch, Madore, Nealy, Nolden

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Lucas, Washington, Wright

**MOTION CARRIED 9-0**

**4. Director's Report**

A. Discussion about the special construction project at For-Mar. 

B. There are a couple items Ms. McMillan would like to state for the record:

We have previously stated for the record that road crossings are not the responsibility of the Parks. Stanley and Genesee Road does not belong to the parks. We have no authority to establish a crosswalk on either of those roads. We are not required to put that in writing because it is in writing in the minutes. She has offered to meet with Mr. Kehoe on more than one occasion and he has indicated that he does not wish to meet, he only wishes to make his statements at public meetings.

The area described as an unresolved oil spill – we have had an independent consultant come out to review the area and we have provided a report. It was provided to the Board of



Commissioners, the Park Commissioners, and it is part of public record. A county commissioner provided that report directly to Mr. Kehoe.

There are no outstanding DEQ issues that relate to the construction of the bridge that is now complete at Crossroads Village and the Huckleberry Railroad.

There are no outstanding construction issues in any of the Genesee County Parks.

The E. A. Cummings Center is not a designated landfill. We expect that, providing all goes well with our consultant that comes in next week, he will supervise the footing in the new arena at the Cummings Center, which is part of the Master Plan that was adopted by this board and part of the Parks 5-year plan, which is also public record.

We are installing the foundations today for the new lighting system at Stepping Stone Falls. She would also add that the new staircase at Stepping Stone Falls is beautifully constructed with the handrails yet to be added. It meets all standards for construction in public places. We will take another look at any hanging tree limbs in the parking lot. We have been very diligent about overhanging trees.

President Krapohl: There is one more item to clarify, 'you are not going anywhere'.

Lynch: He would not be in favor of removing the director.

C. Other Items: All beaches are open again this weekend, and we'll need them, it has been tremendously busy.

The Flint Riverfront Restoration project grants will be submitted before we leave the building on Friday of this week.

You may be reading in the local papers about the Atlas Township property we are trying to acquire with grant funds.

If you ride the Bluegill section of the trail, you may notice there are several trees marked on each side of the trail. We will be cutting trees along the trail this fall. We are required to have 4-foot on each side of the trail for site perspectives, and to allow equipment on the trail when the trail needs repairs. There are some healthy trees that have to be removed as part of that process, but most are volunteer, invasive-types of species.

As soon as we are done with this meeting we will commence with our ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Zagster bike rental station. We have gotten some national press about this bike station. Generally they are not placed in public parks so we are on the leading edge of that.

The Master Gardeners will be recognized this Sunday to receive a statewide award for their work at Crossroads Village. This is a prestigious award and you'll see more information about that on our Facebook page, you can Follow and Like us and post any comments or compliments comments about that.

**5) New Business** There is no new business.

**6) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.**

Keeler: The lighting pole that was leaning, has that been taken down? Will the lighting be across the water? Is there only one style of bike rental?



Barry June: That leaning pole will be taken down. The wiring will not be opposite the falls.

McMillan: There is only one style of bike available.

Nolden: Thanked Patrick Linihan for coming to Berston when a playground design meeting was held. He wanted someone to come out with playground experience and he did a wonderful job, answering a few questions that came up. City of Flint, Kaboom, Make an Impact Foundation, United Way, Keep Genesee County Beautiful are all partners in putting this project together.

McMillan: A reminder that Keep Genesee County Beautiful is a program of the Genesee County Parks. One of the things we do as part of that program is to utilize our certified playground inspectors to help review all of the Adopt a Park sites, to assure the playgrounds are meeting safety standards.

Nealy: Amy did a wonderful job on the presentation to the Planning Commission about the Riverfront project and the progress being made to make it more user friendly to the public. She was also out to Flushing County Park and saw staff working on the playground and saw the truck with all the vegetables.

Madore: Beach reports. How often do you need to test? Does the state require it once a year for public beaches? Are there any requirements at all?

McMillan: We are not required to test, but we do it once a week. We feel it is a public safety issue. The state has no testing requirements for public beaches.

Madore: The townships receive certain funds for maintaining right of ways, sidewalks, things like that. Maybe the township could look at that around the tracks.

McMillan: There were some conversations with SAGE approaching the township for a crossing. Nancy sits on that committee. Nancy stated the whole Safe Routes to School was to put a crosswalk closer to the school so kids could get across Genesee Road, but not down on this end of town at the track area.

Madore: His (Mr. Kehoe's) concern seems to be not crossing the road, but crossing over the tracks themselves. He could talk to Steve at Genesee Township to see if they have any interest in using their right of way funds.

He had question sent to him a while back about the parks cutting live trees. He knows parks staff cut a lot of dead trees for fire wood and they have done a good job clearing dead trees. Are they cutting live trees too?

Barry June: We have been doing select cuttings for our lumber needs for projects. We are using some white pines for beams for a drying shed at CRV, and some white oak trees for end beams on the railroad cars.

Keeler: He was riding a couple weeks ago with the Sunday group. They are so happy with the area behind the water tower. It looks so fantastic and the parks are doing such a great job. It used to be if we could do 21 inches with a lawnmower on each side...but the parks are cutting four foot on each side and cutting brush back and they are just so happy with what is going on. Again, thanks for what you are doing, we appreciate it, it has been a long time to get here, but we're here. Thank you.



Patrick Linihan added that in the past week there have been significant changes.

Barry June: The trail to Coldwater Road was resurfaced yesterday. This is the new trail from Bluegill to Stepping Stone Falls that was put down last fall.

McMillan: The contractor did not comply with the specifications and there was significant ponding on the trail. That has been corrected. If you are working with Barry, you might as well do it right the first time!

**7) Opportunity for the public to address the commission** No one from the public addressed the commission.

**8) Adjournment.** Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am.

